

TRIPURA



GAZETTE

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PART--I-- Orders and Notifications by the Government of Tripura,
The High Court, Government Treasury etc.

**GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY**

No.F.2(1)/CS/H&FW/MASK/2020

Dated, Agartala, the 4th September, 2020.

ORDER

Subject: Guidelines for Durgapuja Festival, 2020

Whereas it has come to the notice of the State Government that there is spread of COVID-19 occurring in different parts of the state which poses a major threat to public health, hygiene and safety of the people and it is also felt that unless measures are put in place to contain the spread of the pandemic, there is chance of large scale spread of COVID-19 in the population which is likely to cause loss of human lives.

AND

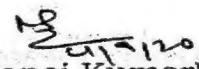
Whereas despite taking several measures to contain the spread, it appears that COVID-19 pandemic may continue during up-coming days till Durga puja.

AND

Whereas it is considered necessary to issue guidelines for the Durgapuja Festival, 2020 to limit the spread of COVID-19 through its transmission.

NOW

I, therefore, in the capacity of Chairman, State Executive Committee, in exercise of the power conferred under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, direct all Clubs / Puja Committees/ Household Puja Organizers and other stakeholders to follow the guidelines given in **Annexure-I** below during Puja celebrations. Non-compliance of the guidelines shall attract action as per law.


(Manoj Kumar)

Chief Secretary & Chairman, State
Executive Committee

To

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura
2. All Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries/ Special Secretaries, Government of Tripura.
3. Director General of Police (In-Charge), Government of Tripura.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Tripura.
5. All DM & Collectors. They are also requested to communicate the guidelines to all Clubs / Puja Committees and other stakeholders.
6. All Superintendents of Police.
7. All Heads of Departments, Government of Tripura.
8. Presidents / Secretaries of all Clubs / Puja Committees.

Annexure- I

Guidelines for Durgapuja celebrations in Tripura

General:

1. It is mandatory for all Clubs / Puja Committees / Household Puja Organizers to take prior permission from District Administration / Police administration and other concerned Departments.
2. In view of covid situation, the subscriptions may be voluntary.
3. The Clubs / Puja Committees may try to introduce system of collection of donation / subscription through online to avoid visit of homes and personal interaction. They may circulate bank details in case such arrangements are adopted.
4. Effort should be made by Municipal bodies to reduce the no. of pandals through mutual consultation so that there are no pandals in close vicinity.

Puja Pandals / Mandops

5. There should be open Puja Mandops / Pandals. Narrow entry-exist system & obstructions for movement and viewing should be avoided. Pandals / Mandops should be designed in such a way that idol is clearly visible from a distance.
6. The height of the Goddess Idols should be limited and should not exceed 10 feet.
7. Only 5 to 10 visitors should be allowed at a time in front of the pandal maintaining physical distance atleast one meter. Proper marking for standing of visitors behind the persons in front should be done by the Puja Organizers.
8. Sufficient place for visitors in front of the pandals / Mandops should be arranged by the Organizers.
9. Required number of volunteers should be kept ready for maintaining physical distancing of the visitors in coordination with security personnel. Volunteers should ensure that only limited no. of visitors are allowed entry at a time to maintain social distancing.

10. Clubs / Puja Committees should not organize any entertainment programme during and after Puja days.
11. Clubs / Puja Committees should not arrange for any extravagant lighting in the Pandals which may attract excessive gathering of the visitors.
12. All the member of the Organizing Committees / Volunteers and visitors should wear mask during Puja days. The Organizing Committees should arrange sufficient mask to distribute if any visitor comes without a mask. Hand sanitizers / hand wash should be arranged for all visitors at entry point as well as common areas.
13. All the Puja pandals should be sanitized at least three times every day. The bamboo, rope etc used for regulating crowd may particularly be sanitized on regular interval. Necessary arrangements may be made for the same.
14. There should be arrangement of thermal screening of visitors in all Puja Mandops / Pandals. If any visitor with high temperature is detected, local health authority may be contacted for necessary action.
15. To the extent possible, the Clubs / Puja Committees may arrange large screens / LED Screen away from the Puja mandops / pandals to facilitate the visitors to view the Goddess idols.
16. The Clubs / Puja Committees may use local TV Channels for viewing of puja by the general public.
17. Competition among the Clubs / Puja Committees and prize distribution to the Organizers may be avoided.
18. Prasad distribution/ common feast in a group may be avoided.
19. Strict social distancing shall be maintained around the stalls set up by the owner near the puja pandal. Use of mask by stall personnel will be compulsory.
20. There will be night curfew during the puja period. The timings of the curfew will be decided after discussion with the organisers.

Immersion

21. Minimum number of vehicles for carrying Goddess Idols to the immersion ghat should be used by the Clubs / Puja Committees and maximum 30 persons should be allowed for attending immersion.
22. The Clubs / Puja Committees may consider preparing artificial pond nearby the pandals / mandops for immersion which will be disposed later on by the Municipal authorities.
23. Timing of immersion should be staggered and as per schedule of the local police authorities.
24. The crowd or extra gathering and delay in immersion ghat should not be allowed. Extra precaution to avoid crowd / gathering at immersion ghat should be taken by the District / Police administration / Municipal Authorities.
25. During procession with Idols towards immersion ghat, road side public gathering should also be avoided and it should be ensured by the District / Police administration.
26. The District / police administration should keep close surveillance on the gathering in the premises of Durga Puja Pandals / Mandops, procession for immersion and in immersion ghats through CCTV and other media. They should take appropriate action as per guidelines of COVID-19 for violating the rules.
27. The Municipal authorities should keep close vigilance, particularly for cleanliness, sanitization of Puja Pandals / Mandops and speedy immersion of Idols in immersion ghats.
28. The Club authorities / Puja Committees may introduce innovative ideas to ensure least gathering of visitors in front of Puja Pandals / Mandops during Puja days. They may display messages for covid related precautions for general awareness.
29. The District Administration in coordination with Police, Municipal authorities and other Departments may impose further restrictions to

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ensure law and order, movement of vehicles, avoidance of gathering etc.
as per the situation.